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DDI-3296-75

DOCI-1680-75

18 December 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: Associate Deputy Director for Intelligence
FROM : Director of Current Intelligence
SUBJECT : Youth Movements

1. On the whole, Communist and radical youth groups are not in vogue as they were in the late 1960's for a number of reasons:

- most youth movements weren't very successful;
- the era of detente preempts many of the arguments of would-be revolutionaries;
- the economic decline has prompted many youth to concentrate on the more pressing problems of jobs and careers; and
- 18 year olds have been enfranchised in many countries.

Given this time of relative calm, then, our coverage in the publications has been limited and we are more likely to carry the stories in our Staff Notes intended primarily for the specialists. Because the pendulum could swing back, we continue to monitor the pulse of youthful radicalism and are in a position to step up our coverage immediately if and when warranted.

2. There are some youth movements that have been given limited attention in our publications, including items in the NID, NIB, and Weekly Review.

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negotiations; terrorist groups in Iran both on the right and left made up largely of college-age youths; and



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3. Communist youth organizations, largely quiet since 1973, now seem to be gearing up for a new round of activity. Communist front organizations are planning a Continental Youth Festival to be held in Warsaw next June which will include delegates from the World Federation of Democratic Youth, the International Union of Students and the Council of European National Youth Committees. Planning is also underway for the 11th World Youth Festival, expected to be held in Havana in 1978.

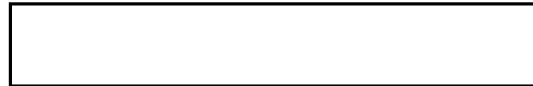
4. Soviet and East European regimes have shown an increased interest in youth affairs in the last year, and this concern has been reflected in the following activities (some reported in our regular publications but primarily in the Staff Notes):

- conferences on youth problems (juvenile delinquency in particular),
- tightening the ranks of youth organizations through membership card exchanges,
- promoting Communist youth into responsible party positions,
- assigning economic tasks to youth organizations, and
- recruiting young people into the Communist party.

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5. OCI's modus operandi on "youth" is that the host country desk handles conferences; the East Europe Branch follows Communist youth activities. The desks receive contributions and act as peg points on demand.



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